

VIII. FINAL PRIORITIZED ISSUES

The RCHC choose the following issues for strategic planning purposes:

1. **Cancer mortality and incidence rates for 45-64 year olds**
2. **Percent of births with late or no prenatal care**
3. **Flu and pneumonia mortality rates for 65+ year olds**
4. **High Blood Pressure/Heart disease mortality rates for 25-44 year olds**
5. **Leaving county for health care that is offered locally**

IX. CLOSING

This Community Diagnosis Health Status Report has provided a description of the assessment portion of the Community Diagnosis Process. The strategic planning portion will entail the formalizing of strategic interventions to deal with the aforementioned priorities. Soliciting input from additional residents and experts in the community, the RCHC will develop intervention strategies. Strategic planning will require consideration of the entire sequence of interacting factors that contribute to the problem, identifying contributing health links, identifying both public and private resources to address the problem and identifying barriers to reducing the problem. Upon completion of the strategic planning process, the RCHC will publish Volume II: The Community Diagnosis Strategic Planning Document, detailing all goals, objectives and specific interventions. The final edition, Volume III: The Community Diagnosis Evaluation Document will monitor the implementation and evaluate each intervention.

The Tennessee Department of Health Southeast Regional Assessment and Planning staff would like to thank the Rhea County Health Council for their continued support and dedication throughout the Community Diagnosis Process. Their tireless efforts have and will continue to positively affect the health of Rhea County.